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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/197, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control. It also provides information on the outcome of the high-level review of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, conducted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2014, and contains recommendations for consideration by the Assembly in preparing for the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Overview of the world drug situation	4
III.	International cooperation against the world drug problem	5
	A. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs	5
	B. Action by subsidiary bodies	6
	C. Action by States parties	7
IV.	Demand reduction and related measures	7
	A. Reducing drug abuse and its health and social consequences	7
	B. Access to treatment, health care and social services, including prevention of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases	8
	C. Access to controlled drugs for medical purposes	9
V.	Supply reduction and related measures	9
	A. Regional and international cooperation in countering the world drug problem and the principle of common and shared responsibility	10
	B. Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	10
VI.	Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation	11
VII.	Data collection and research	12
VIII.	Inter-agency cooperation	13
IX.	Progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem	14
X.	Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	16
XI.	Recommendations	17

I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/197, provides an overview of the world drug situation as well as an overview of the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), other entities of the United Nations system and relevant international organizations. It follows the structure of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[1] in highlighting the priorities followed by Member States and UNODC. It also provides information on the outcome of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and contains recommendations for consideration by the Assembly in preparing for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

2. The report provides an overview of efforts undertaken by UNODC to pursue a balanced and integrated approach in controlling drugs and combating crime, as part of a United Nations system-wide effort in promoting the rule of law, justice, human rights, health and development. The actions of the Office are guided by the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 and the medium-term strategy for the period 2012-2015 adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2012/12, as well as by the integrated programme approach, by which UNODC operates at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

3. At the global level, UNODC implements thematic programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

4. At the regional level, UNODC promotes cross-border cooperation and regional programmes and initiatives among partner countries. To date, the Office has launched 10 integrated regional programmes, for Central America, the Caribbean, Arab States, East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, South-Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, South Asia and South-East Asia. The Office also initiated an interregional approach connecting various regional programmes.

5. At the national level, the Office assists Member States in improving their normative, institutional and operational capacity. In response to requests from Member States, UNODC continued to provide assistance in drafting national legislation for the implementation of the three international drug control conventions. That assistance included support for the adoption or revision of national legislation in Albania, Bhutan, Liberia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

II. Overview of the world drug situation

6. The information contained in this section is mainly based on the content of the replies received by UNODC to the annual report questionnaire, part IV (illicit supply of drugs), submitted by Governments for 2012 and previous years. The annual submission of replies to the annual report questionnaire is an obligation under the three international drug control conventions. The information derived from the annual report questionnaire is supplemented by information contained in the reports of significant drug seizures provided by States to UNODC in 2012/13, the reports of illicit drug crop monitoring surveys undertaken by UNODC in partnership with participating Governments, official national publications, data provided to UNODC through the regional meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies and data published by international and regional organizations.

Illicit production, trafficking and use of opium

7. The global area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2013 was 296,720 hectares (ha), the highest level since 1998. The main increase was observed in Afghanistan, where the area of opium poppy cultivation increased by 36 per cent. The potential production of opium in 2013 is estimated to be 6,883 tons, which is a return to the levels observed in 2008. Consequently, the potential production of heroin also increased, to 558 tons, comparable to the amount in 2008.

8. Following a sharp increase in 2011, global seizures of heroin and illicit morphine declined in 2012, although remaining above the levels of 2010 and prior years. The overall decrease was mainly due to declining seizures in South-West Asia. However, there was an increase in heroin seizures in many other regions, mainly in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, South Asia and Oceania.

9. Opiates and opioids continue to top the list of drugs that cause the most drug-related deaths worldwide. While opiate use has remained stable or declined in Western and Central Europe, there are signs of increased use in North America.

Illicit manufacture, trafficking and use of cocaine

10. The estimated net area under coca bush cultivation worldwide as of 31 December 2012 was the lowest since the beginning of available estimates in 1990: 133,700 ha — a decline of 14 per cent from the estimated cultivation of 2011. Global cocaine seizures increased to 671 tons in 2012, from 634 tons in 2011. The main increase and the largest quantities of cocaine seized were in South America and Western and Central Europe.

11. Cocaine use is still relatively concentrated in the Americas, Europe and Oceania, with most of the world's cocaine being produced in three countries in South America. While there is no conclusive evidence with respect to the extent of cocaine use in Africa and Asia, expert opinion indicates that there may be pockets of emerging cocaine use in those two regions, related to the rise in trafficking through the African region.

Illicit production, trafficking and use of cannabis

12. Demand for cannabis herb is often met through local production, resulting in more localized trafficking patterns, in comparison with other plant-based illicit drugs.

13. Global seizures of cannabis herb decreased in 2012 owing to a reduction in the quantity seized in North America. Global cannabis use seems to have decreased, essentially reflecting the decrease in cannabis use estimates reported by a number of countries in Western and Central Europe. At the same time, more people using cannabis are seeking treatment each year.

Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances, and the increasing diversion of precursors

14. Since 2010, surging seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) point to a rapid expansion of the global ATS market, with total ATS seizures rising by more than 80 per cent to over 135 tons in 2012. The increase in ATS seizures is primarily attributed to the global rise in methamphetamine seizures, especially in East and South-East Asia and North America, with global ATS seizures more than doubling over the same period, reaching 107 tons in 2012.

15. West Africa has gained prominence as a region for the manufacture of methamphetamine, which is then trafficked to East and South-East Asia. South-West Asia has also emerged as a significant area of manufacture of methamphetamine, which is destined for East and South-East Asia.

16. Large quantities of amphetamine seizures continue to be reported in the Middle East.

17. Seizures of "ecstasy" increased in 2012, with major quantities of "ecstasy" being seized in East and South-East Asia, followed by Europe, which together accounted for over 80 per cent of global seizures of "ecstasy".

18. New psychoactive substances have emerged worldwide at an unprecedented pace. By 2013, the emergence of 348 new psychoactive substances, in a total of 94 countries in all regions, had been reported to UNODC. The market of new psychoactive substances is very dynamic, and a number of those drugs are transient in nature. In response, Member States have developed different national legislative responses to new psychoactive substances.

III. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

19. Pursuant to paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12, the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission was held on 13 and 14 March 2014, with the participation of a total of 129 States.

20. At the high-level segment, Member States conducted a general debate on progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan

of Action and round-table discussions on the three pillars of the Plan of Action: (a) demand reduction: reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach; (b) supply reduction: reducing the illicit supply of drugs, control of precursors and amphetamine-type stimulants, eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops and alternative development; and (c) international cooperation: countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

21. The ministers and Government representatives participating in the high-level segment adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. The Joint Ministerial Statement highlights the importance of health and the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, including protection against HIV, as envisaged by the international drug control conventions. It recognizes the progress that has been achieved, while acknowledging persisting and new challenges with respect to demand and supply reduction and with respect to money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation. The Statement provides a strong basis on which to continue preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

22. At its fifty-seventh regular session, the Commission adopted 11 resolutions on matters ranging from the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development to promoting a drug-free society through sport, promoting drug use prevention and recovery from substance use disorders, and enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances. Commission resolution 57/5, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016" paved the way for the preparations for the special session and specified the role to be played by the Commission in that regard.

23. At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to include *alpha*-phenylacetoacetonitrile (APAAN) and its optical isomers in Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Furthermore, the Commission decided not to transfer dronabinol and its stereoisomers from Schedule II to Schedule III of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

B. Action by subsidiary bodies

24. Five meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2013: the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 2 to 5 July; the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 20 September; the Twenty-third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito from 30 September to 4 October; the Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October; and the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Vienna from 25 to 28 November.

25. The subsidiary bodies addressed issues of priority in drug law enforcement in their regions and reviewed progress made in the implementation of recommendations made at previous sessions. They also made recommendations to the Commission on various aspects of drug supply and demand reduction.

C. Action by States parties

26. The Plurinational State of Bolivia deposited its instrument of accession to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol in 2013, and Timor-Leste acceded to the 1988 Convention in 2014.

IV. Demand reduction and related measures

A. Reducing drug abuse and its health and social consequences

27. The Office continued its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) on improving the coverage and quality of services for the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders, based on scientific evidence and ethical standards, reaching 38 countries. The Office continued to promote voluntary treatment services in the community, as an alternative to prison and compulsory detention centres.

28. A UNODC/WHO discussion paper on preventing and reducing opioid overdose mortality was published and presented at the International Harm Reduction Conference held in Vilnius in June 2013 and at the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2014.

29. Work with children exposed to drugs at a young age continued, with treatment and social protection interventions being delivered in four countries; that issue was also the focus of an expert working group of the Paris Pact Initiative that met in October 2013.

30. With regard to women, WHO published guidelines on the management of substance abuse disorders during pregnancy in the context of a project supported by UNODC. The guidelines were launched during the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2014, together with the draft guidelines on the prevention and treatment of drug abuse among girls and women.

31. The Office is developing international standards on drug dependence treatment, as well as training materials for policymakers on health-centred and balanced drug control policies.

32. Through the Prevention Strategy and Policymakers Initiative, UNODC facilitated the planning of improved national drug prevention systems on the basis of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention in 20 countries. The family skills training programme expanded, reaching 15 countries, in which UNODC and the national ministries of health are piloting a comprehensive prevention system in schools and among families, and a preliminary evaluation shows a statistically significant decrease in risk factors and substance abuse. Moreover, the Office is initiating the development of guidelines and training materials on the evaluation of drug prevention initiatives.

33. The Youth Initiative mobilized approximately 1.2 million young people in 25 countries through social media and with the support of grants from the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan, and organized a forum with the participation of more than 40 young people aged 14-24 years from more than 30 countries. A statement by the forum was delivered to the delegates at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2014.

34. Through its country, regional and global programmes, UNODC supported drug prevention and drug dependence treatment in a total of 57 countries, including through the recently launched project to support the reduction of demand for illicit drugs in the Andean region.

B. Access to treatment, health care and social services, including prevention of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases

35. UNODC has strengthened its capacity to help countries to rapidly scale up delivery of harm reduction services in the context of HIV, including advocacy, technical assistance and capacity-building. In consultation with national stakeholders including civil society organizations, UNODC has identified key strategic areas where the Office has the comparative advantage of being able to contribute the most to achieving the target set in the General Assembly's 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS of reducing HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015.

36. UNODC has identified, together with global and regional civil society organization partners, 24 high-priority countries in the area of injecting drug use and HIV in which the Office is concentrating its efforts and resources in the period 2013-2015. The countries were selected following an analysis of (a) epidemiological data on injecting drug use and HIV burden, including in prisons; (b) country readiness with regard to the policy and legislative environment allowing essential services such as needle and syringe programmes, opioid substitution therapy, condom programmes and antiretroviral therapy; and (c) the resource environment, including international and domestic funding and human resources.

37. UNODC has advocated for increased HIV policies and programmes for women who use drugs and the removal of barriers to access to comprehensive services by carrying out needs assessments with respect to gender-responsive services for women who inject drugs and for female sexual partners of men who inject drugs. A policy paper and a practical guide on gender-responsive HIV services for women who use drugs have been developed. The capacity of service providers to deliver evidence-informed, gender-specific services for women who inject drugs and for female prisoners has been enhanced in several countries, for example, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Ukraine.

38. UNODC has developed a training programme for sensitizing law enforcement officials about harm reduction in the context of HIV and for enhancing their understanding of how law enforcement practices can influence access by people who inject drugs to HIV prevention, treatment and care services. Workshops to pilot the programme were held in 10 high-priority countries. The programme is aimed at institutionalizing HIV training as part of the curricula of national police academies

and enhancing partnerships in harm reduction among law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations and the social, health and other relevant sectors.

39. To advocate for increasing domestic investment in harm reduction, a meeting on economics and financing of effective harm reduction strategies in the context of HIV was organized by UNODC, together with the World Bank and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) during the International Harm Reduction Conference held in Vilnius in June 2013, bringing together senior officials from Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine, as well as the Minister of Finance of Kyrgyzstan, together with senior experts from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNAIDS, UNODC, the World Bank and WHO.

40. In 2013, UNODC updated global estimates on injecting drug use and HIV among people who inject drugs and established partnerships with UNAIDS, WHO, the World Bank and civil society organizations to further improve global data on HIV and injecting drug use and data on HIV services for people who inject drugs. UNODC has formalized its collaboration with civil society organizations regarding the sharing of strategic information on people who inject drugs and HIV and engaged civil society organizations in global efforts to improve the data and estimation methodology with regard to drug use and HIV.

C. Access to controlled drugs for medical purposes

41. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/6, UNODC worked on a revised version of the section of the model law related to access to controlled drugs for medical purposes and initiated collaboration with WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control to pilot a package of interventions in three countries. As an example of action at the national level, in Ghana in early 2014, key stakeholders addressed areas related to policy, legislation, availability of prescription medication, education, professional capacity-building in the health-care professions and raising awareness at the community level.

V. Supply reduction and related measures

42. In response to requests from Member States, UNODC provides technical assistance to build the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities to respond to illicit drug trafficking, improve border control and counter the laundering of the proceeds of crime. Assistance is provided in support of the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption. Alternative livelihood programmes are also an important component of strategies to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

A. Regional and international cooperation in countering the world drug problem and the principle of common and shared responsibility

43. Through its thematic programme on transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking, including drug trafficking, UNODC delivers technical assistance to build the counter-narcotics capacity of national agencies in West Africa, South-East Asia, Central and South America, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan and supports efforts to increase coordination and sharing of information on targeted transnational drug trafficking groups and on precursor control.

44. UNODC has been promoting regional law enforcement cooperation through, inter alia, the establishment of and support to regional centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and the Gulf Cooperation Council's Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs. Those regional centres focus on and provide platforms for sharing criminal intelligence and coordination of multilateral operations. There are requests from the regions of South Asia, West Africa and elsewhere to assist in establishing similar regional platforms for law enforcement cooperation.

45. In order to strengthen interregional cooperation, UNODC is also promoting cooperation among those regional centres, as well as with international and other regional organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the European Police Office (Europol), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) and others. That initiative, known as a "network of networks", is aimed at building and strengthening cooperation links between those entities and to leverage their combined strength in the fight against organized crime in general, including drug trafficking.

46. In partnership with WCO, UNODC implements technical assistance programmes that address the threat of organized crime and trafficking of illicit drugs through the maritime vector of sea container freight. The Container Control Programme assists law enforcement agencies in identifying and inspecting high-risk maritime containers through targeted selection by specialist inter-agency units established and trained under this initiative. To date, the Programme is operational in 20 Member States, with plans for its expansion into new regions. Participating ports can communicate and cooperate through the WCO ContainerComm platform, a web-based encrypted communication tool that enables secure, real-time and standardized communication of data such as warning messages, seizure reports, feedback, alerts and other relevant law enforcement-related information.

B. Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

47. UNODC continues to promote South-South cooperation and the exchange of experiences among Member States in alternative development and provides technical assistance for country-level alternative development programmes. The

adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/196, of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, provides Member States with a framework in which to implement, monitor and assess alternative development activities.

48. UNODC continued its work on addressing illicit drug crop cultivation through development-oriented drug control programmes in Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru.

49. In Colombia and Peru, UNODC alternative development programmes continued supporting farmer-led small business enterprises, which improved the social and economic situation of families in coca bush-growing areas. In 2013, in Peru alone, UNODC supported the establishment of 5,882 ha of palm trees, 2,200 ha of cocoa, and 300 ha of coffee and significant reforestation areas.

50. In Afghanistan, the introduction of water harvesting techniques in the Kohsan district led to a decrease in soil erosion and significant savings in water resources, thus improving the quality of life of beneficiary families. It is estimated that in those areas, land use efficiency increased by more than 10 per cent and water use efficiency by more than 20 per cent.

51. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, UNODC alternative development programmes improved the livelihood of targeted farmer households in opium poppy-growing areas by significantly improving the farmers' food security situation, enhancing opportunities to earn licit income and enabling access to water, health services, markets and credits.

52. In November 2013, UNODC organized, together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, an expert group meeting aimed at reaching out to new stakeholders in the field of alternative development and discussing successes and challenges. Experts from China, India, Guatemala, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, and the Russian Federation presented their models and implementation of alternative development.

VI. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

53. Through its Global Programme Against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in 2013 UNODC helped build capacity in the areas of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism to 47 requesting countries in nine subregions. That assistance was delivered through training, international conferences and substantive legal reviews.

54. Ongoing assistance by UNODC included tailored training for the staff of judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs and border control agencies. The training addressed the practical and operational aspects of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the disruption of illicit financial flows.

55. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money-Laundering and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa. The Asset Recovery Network for Asia and the Pacific was launched in 2013, and work with Member States has begun in West Africa for the creation of a similar network in that subregion.

56. UNODC launched the enhanced International Money-Laundering Information Network and its Anti-Money-Laundering International Database. In addition, UNODC experts conducted a joint research project with the Financial Action Task Force on illicit financial flows from Afghan opiates and participated in conferences and workshops on that topic as part of the work of UNODC under the Paris Pact Initiative.

57. UNODC also published a joint study with the World Bank and INTERPOL entitled *Pirate Trails: Tracking the Illicit Financial Flows from Pirate Activities off the Horn of Africa*, on the illicit financial flows resulting from piracy off the coast of Somalia. Training sessions were also provided in the countries of the Horn of Africa in association with partners such as the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, the World Bank and INTERPOL.

58. Together with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Monetary Fund, UNODC began updating the current model provisions for common-law legal systems on money-laundering, terrorist financing, preventive measures and the proceeds of crime.

59. Judicial cooperation was strengthened by providing technical assistance to the focal points of the regional platforms in the Sahel region, Central America and West Africa and enhancing their effectiveness in facilitating extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

VII. Data collection and research

60. UNODC continued to support countries in improving the availability of data on drugs. In particular, UNODC continued to assist various Governments in the monitoring of illicit crops and production of drugs. In 2013, technical support was provided to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru for monitoring coca bush cultivation, to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar for monitoring opium poppy cultivation and to Afghanistan and Mexico for monitoring opium poppy and cannabis plant cultivation.

61. Expert advice was provided on the setting-up of drug monitoring systems in East and West Africa and for the issuance of the first annual report on the drug situation in Afghanistan. UNODC is also supporting experts in the countries to improve their data collection and reporting capacities.

62. Of particular importance in the *World Drug Report 2014* are the new estimates jointly produced by UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS and the World Bank on the number of people who inject drugs and the number of people who inject drugs and are living with HIV. The *World Drug Report 2014* also contains a discussion on the global chemical industry and potential vulnerabilities allowing for the diversion of chemicals that can be used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

63. In 2013, UNODC also published three thematic reports, *Opiate Flows through Northern Afghanistan and Central Asia: A Threat Assessment*, *The Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe* and *Impacts of Drug Use on Users and Their Families in Afghanistan*. Those reports have been used by the law enforcement institutions, policymakers, researchers and the general public.

64. UNODC, in consultation with WHO, WCO, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States and the Global Tobacco Surveillance System of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States of America prepared a report for the forty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission on improving the availability and quality of drug statistics (E/CN.3/2014/19 and Corr.1), which was also made available to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

65. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 56/4 and 57/11, the Office established the UNODC early warning advisory, a global Internet-based platform to monitor, analyse and report trends on new psychoactive substances, in the framework of its global Synthetics Monitoring, Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme. The platform serves as a basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and WHO. Research outputs include regional reports on amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances in Latin America and South-East Asia in 2013 and the *Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment* published in 2014. Capacity-building activities for the identification of synthetic drugs, for law enforcement officers, were undertaken primarily in South-East Asia, whereas activities conducted in Latin America focused on improving drug use survey instruments in collaboration with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

66. UNODC continues its efforts to enhance the analytical capacity of drug analysis laboratories to meet internationally accepted standards through the development of manuals and guidelines on procedural approaches, forensic methodologies and laboratory best practices. The significant increase in the number of national drug-testing laboratories participating in the international collaborative exercises, with currently 165 participating laboratories from 57 Member States, demonstrates the increased awareness of the value of the programme and the need for such support to assure the quality of test results.

VIII. Inter-agency cooperation

67. The Office has further strengthened its cooperation and coordination with other United Nations agencies, including with the partner entities of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability. The task force is chaired by UNODC and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and comprises the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Development Programme, the Peacebuilding Support Office, WHO, UNAIDS and the Office for

Disarmament Affairs. Its work is to be closely linked to the Security Sector Reform Task Force, the United Nations Development Group and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. It provides an important forum for the wider United Nations family to ensure a coherent position on issues related to transnational organized crime and illicit drugs.

68. The Task Force has adopted key messages on drugs and crime, as well as talking points on drug policy for use by senior United Nations leaders in their communication initiatives. It is anticipated that the United Nations system resident coordinators will also utilize those messages when communicating with national-level counterparts. Among the various joint initiatives emerging from the forum of the task force is a road map of events and meetings that can be used to assist Member States in preparing for and contributing to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held in 2016.

69. In the area of health, the Office continues to collaborate closely with WHO on issues related to availability of pain medication and drug dependence treatment. As chair of the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations, UNODC is taking an active role in ensuring access to effective prevention, treatment and care services for people who inject drugs, as outlined in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*.

70. In the area of supply reduction, UNODC continued its cooperation with INTERPOL and WCO on the Airport Communication Project, supporting the joint airport interdiction task forces at priority international airports in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. As mentioned above, the Container Control Programme, implemented jointly with WCO to assist Member States in combating illicit trafficking and cross-border organized crime, expanded worldwide during the period under review.

IX. Progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

71. In its resolution 68/197, the General Assembly noted that the outcome of the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action should be submitted through the Economic and Social Council to the Assembly (see A/69/87-E/2014/80), in view of the special session of the Assembly in 2016. The Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session, including by presenting proposals from its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions through the Economic and Social Council in support of the preparatory process, to be considered by the General Assembly starting at its sixty-ninth session.

72. In response, as mentioned above, the Commission adopted resolution 57/5, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". All operative paragraphs of Commission resolution 57/5, apart from

paragraph 14, are to be operationalized by the Commission, in recognition of the Commission's leading role in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, as the central policymaking body of the United Nations dealing with drug-related matters, which is requested to make best use of its existing meetings and reporting entitlements to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the special session in 2016.

73. In resolution 57/5, the Commission decided to present proposals, for consideration by the General Assembly, regarding all organizational matters, including the agenda, dates, substantive issues to be covered, outcomes and other issues relevant to the successful preparations for the special session. The Commission requested UNODC, as the leading entity in the United Nations system for countering the world drug problem, to provide substantive expertise and technical support to the preparatory process, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report for consideration by the Commission before or at its reconvened fifty-seventh session, containing recommendations on the preparations for, the possible outcomes of and organizational matters relating to that special session. The Commission further recommended that organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, other relevant international organizations, including the International Narcotics Control Board, and regional organizations contribute fully to the Commission's preparations, in particular by submitting to the Commission, through the Executive Director of UNODC, specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the Assembly at that session. The Commission also recognized the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, and the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session and their effective, substantive and active involvement during the special session and requested the Chair of the Commission to consider undertaking consultations and other appropriate actions in that regard with relevant stakeholders.

74. The Commission immediately started implementation of those provisions. As an initial step, to facilitate the broader consultation process with United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, a website has been created (www.ungass2016.org), with the intention of enabling global dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner and to function as a resource tool for the Commission in its preparations for the special session to be held in 2016. All relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations as well as all non-governmental organizations that regularly attend the Commission have been invited to send written contributions to the Secretariat for posting on that website.

75. The first of a series of intersessional meetings was held on 10 June 2014. All Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations were invited and videoconferencing facilities were arranged to enable participants outside Vienna to follow the proceedings. A number of presentations were made on issues such as data collection and analysis; making best use of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies); and strengthening the operational and global implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action in the areas of demand reduction (prevention and treatment) and supply reduction (law enforcement and alternative development). Each presentation

was followed by an interactive discussion. A presentation was also made by the Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs on the involvement of civil society on the road towards the special session of the Assembly of 2016 (all presentations in that regard have been posted online on the UNODC website (www.unodc.org)).

76. Additional intersessional meetings will be held in the third quarter of the year, with a view to preparing a one-day special segment on the special session of the Assembly, during the reconvened fifty-seventh session of the Commission, on 3 December 2014, as well as a special segment on the special session during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, in March 2015, pursuant to Commission resolution 57/5.

77. At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". If adopted, the General Assembly would stress the importance of the special session on the world drug problem in 2016, as noted in Commission resolution 57/5, as a milestone on the way to 2019, which has been set as the target date in the Political Declaration for the review of implementation; would decide that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 will have an inclusive preparatory process that includes extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice; would also decide that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, shall lead this process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner; and, in that regard, would invite the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process.

X. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

78. At the fifty-seventh of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States welcomed the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and stated that they looked forward to further discussions in the working group, including on the regional and thematic programmes of the Office. During the past year, the working group continued to play an important role in preparing action by the governing bodies of the Office in key areas, including strategic and budgetary matters, the programmatic work, evaluation and oversight, and the Office's financial situation.

79. The funding situation of UNODC reflected the following trends: while special-purpose or earmarked voluntary contributions have continuously increased, indicating strong donor confidence, the level of general-purpose and unearmarked voluntary contributions has declined. That trend continued in the biennium 2012-2013, with $602.7 million received in special-purpose funding (an increase of 23.8 per cent compared with the biennium 2010-2011) and

$19.4 million received in general-purpose funding (a decrease of 26.5 per cent compared with the previous biennium). The constant reduction of core funding has put a continuing strain on management, support and oversight functions.

80. Moreover, less than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations is allocated to the Office. By resolution 68/248 A, the General Assembly approved regular budget resources in the amount of $43.9 million under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice. The UNODC consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 is $736.6 million, of which 12 per cent comes from regular budget funds and $648.3 million from extrabudgetary resources.

81. In line with the cost recovery policies promulgated by the Controller, the Office is ensuring that funds for programme support costs are used only to cover indirect support functions, while the cost of direct support functions for UNODC programmes will be covered from the respective programme budgets. The objective is to move to a more predictable and stable funding mechanism, including a possible annual appeal and annual reporting. The biennium 2014-2015 is a transitional one, as consultations with Member States continue with the aim of ensuring transparency, clarity and internal review of cost structures.

82. UNODC continues to strengthen its evaluation culture. Consultation with the Independent Evaluation Unit is mandatory for project managers in ensuring reserved funding, planned evaluations and enhanced quality of reports. The Unit has led the completion of five strategic in-depth evaluations, as well as backstopped project evaluations and self-evaluations in line with project managers' evaluation plans. Further progress includes the establishment of a network of planning, monitoring and evaluation focal points at headquarters and field offices and the development of an online tool for project evaluations. The evaluation policy is further updated, in line with recommendations from oversight bodies, reflecting the needs of Member States and the Organization.

83. The Office has worked to ensure that UNODC technical cooperation programmes are designed on a sound evidential basis, in line with the principles of results-based management and taking into account recommendations from oversight bodies and evaluation reports. The Office continued to improve results-based management and refine systems and templates for the reporting of results, particularly through the UNODC programme review committee. That included the provision of programme-level reports to Member States in the working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

XI. Recommendations

84. **It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following actions:**

(a) Urge Member States that have not yet done so to adhere to the drug control conventions, and urge all States to fully implement all the provisions of the conventions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Commission

on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(b) Urge Member States to take the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the high-level review of 2014;

(c) Urge Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate;

Demand reduction and related measures

(d) Encourage Member States to consider substance use disorders as medical and public health issues and promote prevention interventions based on scientific evidence, such as the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, as the most effective way of addressing the problem of substance use disorders;

(e) Call upon Member States to improve the capacity of health-care systems to deliver evidence-based preventive and treatment interventions for substance use disorders at all levels and discourage the use of criminal sanctions in addressing substance use disorders;

(f) Urge Member States to promote measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for the relief of pain and for palliative care;

(g) Invite Member States to ensure that national legislative frameworks are in place to ensure that United Nations-recommended HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who inject drugs and people in prisons and other closed settings can be delivered;

Supply reduction and related measures

(h) Call upon Member States to encourage their law enforcement authorities and prosecutorial services to cooperate with their counterparts in foreign jurisdictions in order to collaboratively investigate, arrest and prosecute transnational criminal organizations, including drug trafficking networks;

(i) Encourage Member States to review their national legislation to ensure that drug law enforcement authorities are empowered to deal with new challenges posed by pre-precursor substances, non-controlled licit chemicals and the emergence of new psychoactive substances that are sourced by drug traffickers;

(j) Encourage Member States to promote the use of the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and to support the expansion of alternative development programmes, including through the facilitation of market access for products stemming from alternative development to contribute to the generation of legitimate long-term income for small farming communities;

(k) Encourage Member States to design alternative development programmes in line with the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development to ensure that both a reduction in illicit crop cultivation and an improvement in social and economic conditions in target areas are achieved;

Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

(l) Encourage Member States to ensure they have adequate domestic legislative frameworks to allow for adequate judicial cooperation and to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, precursor diversion and other serious crimes of a transnational nature;

(m) Urge Member States to fully implement and enforce legal and regulatory frameworks to prevent money-laundering and illicit financial flows, through the confiscation and recovery of illicit assets, in compliance with United Nations conventions and internationally accepted standards;

(n) Request Member States to strengthen financial and regulatory regimes for banks and other financial institutions as well as for designated non-financial business and professional entities;

Data collection and research

(o) Urge Member States to report data and information related to illicit drug trends regularly and in a timely manner to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through mandated data collection tools, in particular the annual report questionnaire and the individual drug seizure reports;

(p) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to Member States that lack the capacity to collect accurate, reliable and comparable data and information on illicit drug production, trafficking and drug use and related harm, with a view to increasing their capacity to provide information through mandated data collection tools, and urge Member States to support the Office in that work;

(q) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue collaboration with national, regional and international partners in monitoring new psychoactive substances with respect to the composition, production, distribution and patterns of use, and encourage Member States to share relevant data and information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and the regulation of new psychoactive substances using the web-based early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances;

Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(r) Encourage Member States to continue to actively participate in the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(s) Urge Member States and encourage the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue building a culture of results-based management, accountability and evaluation and to continue to produce results-based programme reporting, and to ensure that lessons learned during

implementation of technical cooperation projects are fed into the development of new programmes;

(t) Urge Member States to address, as a matter of urgency, the need to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner, and to provide the Office the necessary voluntary contributions, preferably non-earmarked or soft-earmarked contributions;

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

(u) Encourage Member States to actively participate in the preparations for the General Assembly special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, and encourage all stakeholders to support the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, in its leading role in the preparatory process for the special session.